

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Portland, Maine

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

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August 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Portland, Maine**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 64,249
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 93.0% white; 2.6% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.1% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.7% other race; 1.9% two or more races; 1.5% Hispanic/Latino (any race)
- County: Cumberland

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Karen Geraghty<sup>2</sup>
- City Manager: Joseph Gray<sup>3</sup>
- City Council: Peter O'Donnell; Nathan Smith; Cheryl Leeman; Jay Hibbard; Jill Dusen; Philip John Dawson; James Cloutier; Nicholas Mavodones, Jr.<sup>4</sup>
- Chief of Police: Michael Chitwood<sup>5</sup>
- Cumberland County Sheriff: Mark N. Dion<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>7</sup>  
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA (NEHIDTA) is responsible for twelve counties, including Cumberland County, Maine. The NEHIDTA was designated due to the high purity heroin found throughout New England and the criminal groups that traffic heroin and crack from New York to New England.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>8</sup>  
No community coalitions in Portland have ever received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>9</sup>  
No sites in Portland have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds<sup>10</sup>  
The University of Southern Maine is the only site in Portland to receive FY 2001 discretionary funds from SAMHSA. \$580,000 was awarded to the University to compare consumers enrolled in traditional drug services to a combination of traditional services with a set of consumer-operated services. The project period is 9/30/1998-8/31/2002.

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- The Portland Police Department reported seventy arrests for drug abuse violations in 2000.<sup>11</sup>

### Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Portland, 2000

Offense	Juveniles	Adults	Total
Murder/manslaughter	0	0	0
Forcible rape	0	6	6
Robbery	2	15	17
Aggravated assault	2	28	30
Burglary	26	59	85
Larceny-theft	21	289	310
Motor vehicle theft	2	5	7
Other assaults	39	584	623
Arson	0	3	3
Drug abuse violations	4	66	70
Driving under the influence	2	329	331
Liquor laws	1	184	185

### Drugs<sup>12</sup>

- Cocaine
 

Crack cocaine is considered “somewhat available” in Portland, is 80 percent pure, and costs \$50 per rock. Young adults (ages 18-30) are the predominant crack users in the city. Powder cocaine costs approximately \$80-100/gram and is 40-60% pure.
- Heroin
 

Portland sources indicate that heroin has surpassed crack as the drug associated with the most serious consequences and it is considered the most widely used illicit drug in the city. High-purity snortable South American (Colombian) white heroin is the most common type found in Portland. The most recent harmful adulterant used in the heroin available in Portland is cocaine. Heroin purity has increased to approximately 70 percent and costs between \$25-30 for 0.1 gram. The predominant heroin user in Portland is white and eighteen years of age or older.
- Marijuana
 

Large outdoor grows of high-grade marijuana are reported in Portland in the summer. Organized groups with small plots are combining efforts in order to bypass laws aimed at large plots. An ounce of high-grade marijuana costs between \$175 and \$225 in Portland.
- Methamphetamine
 

The availability of methamphetamine increased from spring 2001 to fall 2001. Methamphetamine sales typically take place at Portland raves.
- Club Drugs
 

One MDMA (ecstasy) pill costs approximately \$25 in Portland. The use of GHB and the availability of LSD have increased in the city.
- Other Drugs
  - Methadone is increasingly reported as a heroin substitute.
  - The availability of diverted OxyContin has declined in Portland, possibly due to tightened controls. When available, OxyContin costs \$1 per milligram. Some Portland pharmacists target elderly patients with valid prescriptions and burglarize their homes. Other methods of obtaining OxyContin include the following: forged prescriptions; doctor shopping, which involves going from one

doctor to another to obtain as many prescriptions as possible; and pharmaceutical robberies. Heroin is reported as a common OxyContin substitute in Portland.

### Juveniles

- Survey results from the 2002 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey indicate that 17.7 percent of Cumberland County students in grades six through twelve reported using marijuana ten or more times during their lives.<sup>13</sup>

Percent of 6-12 Graders Reporting Lifetime Use of Drugs, Cumberland County, 2002

Drug	No Use	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more
Alcohol	46.6%	14.5%	9.8%	6.3%	22.8%
Marijuana	70.0	5.8	3.8	2.8	17.7
Cocaine	95.5	2.4	0.8	0.3	1.0
Heroin	97.3	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.7
Ecstasy	92.7	3.7	1.3	0.8	1.5
Hallucinogens	93.4	2.9	1.3	0.6	1.9
Inhalants	89.4	6.4	1.9	0.7	1.6
Stimulants	94.7	2.4	1.0	0.5	1.5
OxyContin	93.3	3.3	1.2	0.5	1.7
Other prescription	82.9	7.4	3.0	1.5	5.2
Other illegal drug	86.8	4.1	1.9	1.1	6.1

- Over six percent of students reported using marijuana more than ten times in the previous thirty days.<sup>14</sup>

Percent of 6-12 Graders Reporting Previous 30-Day Use, Cumberland County, 2002

Drug	No Use	1-2 times	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more
Alcohol	70.0%	17.0%	6.6%	2.8%	3.6%
Marijuana	83.0	6.1	3.0	1.5	6.4
Cocaine	98.0	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.5
Heroin	98.8	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4
Ecstasy	97.2	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.4
Hallucinogens	97.3	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.5
Inhalants	96.5	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.5
Stimulants	97.6	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.5
OxyContin	97.4	1.6	0.5	0.1	0.5
Other prescription	92.3	4.4	1.5	0.7	1.2
Other illegal drug	92.9	2.7	1.4	0.6	2.5

### Enforcement

- Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)<sup>15</sup>  
MDEA serves as Maine's statewide drug task force and has six regional task force offices located in Augusta, Bangor, Houlton, Lewiston, Lyman and Portland.

- There is one New England HIDTA task force located in Portland, the Northeast New England HIDTA Task Force. The purpose of this task force is to target core and secondary heroin, cocaine, and crack criminal distribution organizations.<sup>16</sup>
- As of October 30, 2000, there were 223 full-time law enforcement employees in Portland.<sup>17</sup>

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- Since September 11, 2001:<sup>18</sup>
  - Drug trafficking routes and modes have shifted.
  - Heroin and cocaine traffickers are making fewer trips across the Canadian border due to increased law enforcement security, but they are smuggling larger amounts of drugs per trip.
- From spring 2001 to fall/winter 2001, the number of small, local methamphetamine labs seized increased in Portland.<sup>19</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>20</sup>  
As of January 17, 2002, there were two drug courts in Portland that had recently been implemented. There were no additional drug courts being planned.

### **Treatment<sup>21</sup>**

- After September 11, depression and hopelessness intensified among older treatment clients in Portland. The clients tended to use more drugs than they had already been using prior to September 11.
- Portland treatment sources report an increase in the number of relapses among chronic drug users since September 11.
- According to Portland treatment sources, the number of heroin users in their twenties is increasing.

### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> Portland City Council Web site: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/citycou.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Portland Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/police/ppd.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Cumberland County Sheriff Office Web site: <http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/SOmain.html>

<sup>7</sup> ONDCP Web site, New England HIDTA Fact Sheet:  
[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_ne.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ne.html)

<sup>8</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site: <http://ojidp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>

<sup>9</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds:  
<http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/me.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Maine Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Maine 2000*:  
[http://www.state.me.us/dps/cim/crime\\_in\\_maine/2000contents.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/2000contents.htm)

<sup>12</sup> ONDCP, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, July-December 2001 Reporting Period*, April 2002:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

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<sup>13</sup> Maine Office of Substance Abuse, Results from the Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey 2002:  
<http://enigma.portlandwebworks.com/maineosa/survey/home.php>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Maine Department of Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency Web site:  
<http://www.state.me.us/dps/Mdea/homepage.htm>

<sup>16</sup> ONDCP Web site, New England HIDTA Fact Sheet:  
[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_ne.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ne.html)

<sup>17</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

<sup>18</sup> ONDCP, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, July-December 2001 Reporting Period*, April 2002:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002: <http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> ONDCP, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, July-December 2001 Reporting Period*, April 2002:  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

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